Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicant has amended Figures 7, 9, 10A, 11, and 13. Please replace Figures 7, 9, 10A, 11, and 13 with the amended Figures included herein.

Amendments to the Specification:

Applicant has amended paragraphs 23, 29, 33, and 60 of the specification. Please replace paragraphs 23, 29, 33, and 60 of the specification, with the marked-up amended paragraphs below. For the ease of review, the Applicant has placed in bold the amendments to the specification paragraphs.

[0023] The conduit system 20 as described in this embodiment of response system 100 preferably is not the same conduit as that which would be used for other systems (e.g., an air conditioning system). This separate system capability allows the response system 100 to be reused, over and over again – not contaminating the other conduit systems. In other embodiments, the conduit system ~~200~~ **20** may share a conduit with other systems.

[0029] As an illustration of the operation of the passive valve 40 and active valve 30 and with reference to FIGS. 2A and 2B, a force of negative air, indicated by arrows ~~33~~ **3** (a suction force, described with reference to FIG. 1) initially exists on the active valve 30. This force of negative air as illustrated in FIG. 1 can be created via high power vacuum 10 (or in other embodiments via a fan or the like), opening select valves to establish a communication channel. To complete the communication channel, the active valve 30 is rotatably opened (as shown in FIG 2B), allowing the negative air flow through the passage 35. The negative air flow, upon traveling through passage 35, rotatably opens the passive valve 40 by overcoming the counter-clockwise urging force of the spring or detent mechanism (not shown). The urging force of this spring or detent mechanism exists to allow the passive valve 40 to move freely, opening when suction occurs in a given zone, and closing/sealing the area or zone from the back flow of negative elements, such as fumes, smoke, gases or the like.

[0033] FIG. 5 is schematic of a configuration of the backup system 140 referenced in FIG. 4. The backup system 140 can serve – in some embodiments – as the power source for the system when the commercial power supply has been interrupted. The backup system 140 includes a power sensor module 150, inverter 160 and a battery bank ~~160~~ **170**. Sensor module 150 is arranged and designed to monitor the incoming commercial power supply. When this commercial power supply is interrupted, the power sensor module 150 detects the power failure and switch over to the battery bank ~~160~~ **170**, which sits on standby. During an outage, and in the event that the system is activated, the battery power from the battery bank ~~160~~ **170** goes through the inverter **160** and into to the motor 14. When commercial power is restored, the sensor module 150 switches back to commercial power supply and recharges the battery bank ~~160~~ **170**. In other configurations, the battery power of the battery bank ~~160~~ **170** can be completely drained before recharging the battery. In emergency situations, the backup system 140 can provide enough power to allow inhabitants of a house, apartment or commercial building time to get out of the building. With the above description of the backup system 140, it is to be expressly understood that some embodiments do not have a backup system 140.

[0060] FIG. 13, in a side cut-out view, shows another embodiment of the response system and communication system being utilized in a self-contained structure. In this embodiment the structure is a submergible submarine 2000, generally shown below a sea surface 2010. Other embodiments of self contained structures should become apparent to the extent foreseeable by one of ordinary skill in the art – e.g., areas where an escape would not be permitted. In a similar manner to that described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 11, the response system 100 includes a conduit system 20', valves 30' **and 40'**, and a high powered vacuum 10'. The communication system 200 includes sensors 80'. Upon receiving a signal from the communication system 200, the high powered vacuum 10' can be activated and the valves 30' opened to eradicate zones X, Y, Z, and A of potentially harmful substances, such as smoke through the conduit system 20' and to an exhaust system 58'.